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**DEMOGRAPHY AND STRUCTURE
OF THE
WOODWORK INDUSTRY**

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A THESIS SUBMITTED FOR THE PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS
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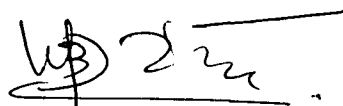
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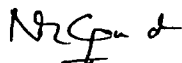
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"I certify that this thesis does not incorporate without acknowledgement any material previously submitted for a Degree or Diploma in any University to the best of my knowledge and belief it does not contain any material previously published, written or orally communicated by another person except where due reference is made in the text."



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To the best of my knowledge, the above particulars are correct.



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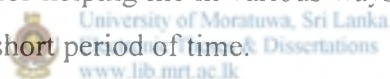
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ABSTRACT

Woodworking industry is one of the oldest industries in the country started as small family based units. Moratuwa has been the Center of Excellence where the industry is mostly driven by current members of the then wood expert families, except for few new outside entrants.

Industry covers large area of activities and in the present context, need to bring technological expertise from various other disciplines as well. Industry is currently facing lot of setbacks, which has resulted in its slow pace of growth. Therefore the main objective of this research is to study the structure of this important industry and arrive at some suitable recommendations to counter such setbacks.

Research methodology included a comprehensive literature review and a pilot survey, based on which a questionnaire was prepared to gather data from the woodworking units operating mainly in Moratuwa. 100 questionnaires were sent to randomly selected 39 woodworking units. The response rate was 76%. A database was prepared from all the data gathered and then led to the analysis and comparisons from the results obtained from the database.

There is an acute shortage of books written on wood industry in Sri Lanka. Nevertheless, there were few bulletins published by various training institutions, which were very helpful in the literature review exercise. An attempt was made to study the vocational training aspects of some other countries in the region.

Each of the factors in the questionnaire was isolated and analyzed to understand the structure of the industry with some special emphasis to training aspects of workers. The detailed discussion on page 58, based on the outcome of the analysis, provides the interrelationships of such factors tested in the questionnaire. Some of the recommendations that followed are, to include woodworking as an optional subject in the school curriculum, training institutions to be modified and updated, launch a programme to change the present adverse public culture about wood industry and a national level reward system. It may be important for a potential future researcher to address the issues such as training needs of various categories of woodworkers and secondly, the women in wood industry.

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ABBREVIATIONS

Apprenticeship Training Institute	ATI
Competency Based Training	CBT
Department of Technical Education and Training	.....	DTET
German Technical Co-operation Agency	.....	GTZ
Japanese International Corporation Agency	.....	JICA
Ministry of Enterprise Development, Industrial Policy and Investment Promotion	.....	MED
National Apprentice and Industrial National Institute of Technical Education	.....	NITE
Non Governmental Organizations	.....	NGO
Skills Development Project	.....	SDP
Supervised Field Teaching	.....	SFT
Technical Education	.....	TE
Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission	.....	TVEC
Tertiary Education and Vocational Training	.....	TEVT
Training Authority	.....	NAITA
Vocational Training	.....	VT

